

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. No changes in the claims are presented herein.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for coding phonetic information, the method comprising the steps of:
 - identifying phonetic features of a character sequence; and
 - representing the identified phonetic features as a bit string.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the character sequence is a name.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the bit string has a length of 32 bits.
4. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of replacing at least one group of characters, in the character sequence with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or a similar sound when spoken but a different spelling.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

covering the beginning portion of the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

covering the middle portion of the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

and covering the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of extracting said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between the character sequence groups and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of empirically founding said tables comprising groups of the character sequences.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of spelling actual language in use which reflect the specific phonetics.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of decreasing a coding precision with a distance from the beginning of the character sequence.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 9, further comprising the step of coding a first character with five (5) bits.

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

11. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform method steps for coding phonetic information, said method comprising the steps of:

- identifying phonetic features of a character sequence, wherein the character sequence is a name;
- representing the identified phonetic features as a bit string;
- replacing at least one group of characters, in the character sequence, with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or similar sound when spoken with a different spelling;
- covering the beginning portion of the character sequence with a first normalized character group;
- covering the middle portion of the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;
- covering the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups;
- extracting said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between the character sequence and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table;
- empirically founding said tables comprising groups of character sequences;

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

spelling actual language in use which reflect the specific phonetics;

decreasing a representative precision with a distance from the beginning of said original character sequence;

representing the first character of the character sequence with a 5-bit bit string.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing symbol insertion in accordance with Claim 11, wherein a bit string related to said phonetic information has a length of 32 bits.

13. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for coding phonetic information, the apparatus comprising:

a coder which codes phonetic information about a character sequence in a bit stream string;

a deriver which derives said phonetic information from names;

a replacer which replaces at least one group of characters, in the character sequence, with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or a similar sound when spoken but a different spelling;

a coverer which covers the beginning portion of the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

a second coverer which covers the middle portion of the character sequence

Atty. Docket No. DE9-1999-0085US1
(590.027)

with one or more of said normalized character groups;

a third coverer which covers the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups;

an extractor which extracts said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between the character sequence groups and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table;

a founder which empirically founds said tables comprising groups of the character sequences;

a speller which spells actual language in use which reflects the specific phonetics;

a decreaser which decreases a coding precision with a distance from the beginning of said original character sequence;

a second coder which codes the first character of the character sequence with a 5-bit bit string.